



Maricopa County

News Release

Environmental Services Department

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Maricopa County Strikes Gold!

Environmental Services Department's Health Division Receives National Recognition

Maricopa County Environmental Services department (MCESD) has been awarded for excellence by the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP). On August 17th, the MCESD Environmental Health division was honored in Baltimore, Maryland as the recipient for the 2005 Food Safety Innovation Award. This national recognition acknowledges the design and implementation of the department's Food Service Scoring Award program.

The one of a kind program provides an award competition between similar industry groups presenting an award based on established thresholds (Gold seal, Silver seal, and No Award), thus giving the regulated community and the public a basis for how well an establishment performed during their health and sanitation inspection. Restaurants are encouraged to display seal certificates in a visible area to patrons within their facility.

In 2001, the division received the Samuel J. Crumline Award for Food Service Excellence which honors the best regulatory food protection program internationally.

"This new and innovative program which we started in 2003 would have never materialized if not for the teamwork approach of our staff, the industry and Maricopa County Management", says David Ludwig, Environmental Health Division Manager. "It is with honor that we receive this award. I will ask that the \$2,500.00 stipend which accompanies this award be used to recognize our staff through a celebration of achievement program", Ludwig added.

"We are very proud of this new recognition that emphasizes our goal of keeping those who visit restaurants and other food vendors from contracting any food born illnesses", says John Power, Environmental Services Department Interim Director.

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